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| **Assignment Name:** | **Country** |
| **Lao Australia Rural Livelihoods Project – (LARP) – Social Protection and Sustainable Livelihoods component (SPSL)** | **Lao PDR** |
| **Location Within Country** | **Professional Staff Provided by CES** |
| **Vientiane, Saravan, Champassak, Savannakhet** | **13** |
| **Name of Client** |  |
| **DFAT and MoLSW** |  |
| **Start date (Mth/Yr) Completion date (Mth/Yr)** | **No. of Staff Months** |
| **January 2014 to June 2016** | **320** |
|  |  |
| **Name of Senior Staff** | **Approx. Value of Services** |
| **Mr. Kaothong** | **$1,000,000** |
| **Brief Description of Project**  The **Laos – Australia Rural Livelihoods Program (LARLP)** is a four-year A$43 million program. Its **goal** is to increase the economic security and resilience of poor women and men in rural areas. Its **objective** is to provide poor rural families, in particular women, with greater and inclusive access to social protection, financial services, productive assets and opportunities to generate income. | |
| Rural families will be provided with greater access to financial services, to strengthen both their investment possibilities and enhance consumption smoothing. The LARLP will also begin a process of strengthening social protection in Laos, by offering the most vulnerable families access to social transfers and livelihood opportunities, while also engaging in policy dialogue on social protection with government. | |
| The Micro-Enterprise Challenge Fund will focus on Outcome 1**:** Increased income generating opportunities for poor women and men, including through greater commercial and sustainable exploitation of natural resources and will include coffee production in appropriate areas.  The Social Protection sub-component will be responsible for achieving Outcomes 2 and 3: Increased access to social transfers and enhanced livelihood opportunities for the most vulnerable families within selected communities; and a clear policy direction on social protection by the Government of Laos.  Policy dialogue is to occur at a higher level than for all other activities in the component. For this dialogue based activity, the Social Protection team within SPSL will work with the Government of Laos, in particular, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, the National Leading Committee on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication, and the Ministry of Finance. The aim is to establish a clear policy direction on social protection. | |